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MT LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Chapter 2 1989 Special Session

Bill H ____ (S) 17 Original bill & hist. ___C

H. Committee on	Local Government	S. Committee on	Education & Cultural Resources
Hearing Date(s)	June 27 ✓C	Hearing Date(s)	June 22 ✓C
	____ ___C		____ ___C
	____ ___C		____ ___C
	____ ___C		____ ___C
Date Out	June 29 ✓C		June 22 ✓C

Did this bill originate in an interim committee? ___Yes ___No

Committee _____ Report _____

Note:

For the sake of economy, since both committees had as an exhibit the "Survey Re Hours Open", I only copied it once.

Stephen R Jordan

Section 5. **Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the general fund $204,950 for the biennium ending June 30, 1991, to the superintendent of public instruction to establish standard accounting and reporting practices in all Montana public school districts.

Section 6. **Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 1990.

Approved June 30, 1989.

CHAPTER NO. 2

[SB 17]

AN ACT TO ALLOW THE GOVERNING BODY OF A THIRD-CLASS CITY OR TOWN TO ESTABLISH THE DAYS AND TIMES THAT MUNICIPAL OFFICES ARE OPEN; AMENDING SECTION 7-4-102, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

Section 1. Section 7-4-102, MCA, is amended to read:

"**7-4-102. Office hours.** *(1)* Unless otherwise provided by law, every officer *shall* keep his office open for the transaction of business continuously from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day except Saturdays and legal holidays. Every officer shall keep his office open at such other times as the accommodation of the public or the proper transaction of business requires.

(2) County and city treasurers may, in the interest of the safekeeping of funds, securities, and records under their control, close their offices during the period from noon to 1 p.m. every day.

(3) The governing body of a third-class city or town may establish days and times when municipal offices are open to conduct business that are different from the days and times required by subsection (1)."

Section 2. **Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

Approved July 1, 1989.

CHAPTER NO. 3

[SB 16]

AN ACT CREATING A JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND QUALITY IN EDUCATION; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

Section 1. **Definitions.** As used in [this act], "committee" means the joint legislative committee on accountability and quality in education created in [section 2].

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE
51st LEGISLATURE - 1st SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By Chairman H.W. Hammond and Chairman Ted Schye, on June 22, 1989, at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: All Senate Education Committee Members Present
All House Education Committee Members Present

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Andrea Merrill, Legislative Researcher
David Cogley, Legislative Researcher
Claudia Johnson, House Committee Secretary
Jaelene Johnson, Senate Committee Secretary

Announcements/Discussion: This is a joint hearing between the Senate and House Education Committees. Chairman Senator Hammond chaired for SB 17 and Chairman Representative Schye chaired when the House Bills were presented. Chairman Senator Hammond then chaired when Senator Nathe's bill, SB 20 was presented.

HEARING ON SENATE BILL 17

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator J.D. Lynch, Senate District 34, opened stating that this bill is important to the small communities in Montana. He stated that since the regular 1989 Legislative Session was over, the Attorney General has come out with an opinion after having been requested in regards to the hours that the municipal government offices must stay open. The law states that the municipal offices must be open 9 hours a day and 45 hours a week. He stated that it would break some of the small incorporated cities. This bill only addresses third class cities and towns to set their own hours as long as they notify the public, and it allows the small communities to do what they have been doing for a long time.

Testifying Proponents and Who They Represent:

Alec Hansen, Lobbyist for Montana League of Cities and Towns

Proponent Testimony:

Mr. Hansen stated his support for SB 17, and thanked those that signed the petition to bring this bill in to address this problem. Mr. Hansen distributed a handout on the taxable value of cities and towns in Montana. (See EXHIBIT 1). He stated that some of the mills only raise $50-$60, and some of the small towns have an annual budget of less than $10,000 which makes it very difficult for these places to have a full time employee. Mr. Hansen distributed another handout regarding a survey taken on the hours some of the offices are open. (See EXHIBIT 2). He stated that the main concern is the third class cities and towns that cannot afford to operate 45 hours a week. Mr. Hansen stated that if some of the small offices are open 45 hours a week, they would go out of business.

Testifying Opponents and Who They Represent:

None

Questions From Committee Members: Senator Farrell asked Mr. Hansen why the language on line 17, page 1, "except county" had been struck, if this is a city bill why is "county" struck? Mr. Hansen replied that on line 18 of page 1, "city and county" is reinserted. Mr. Hansen said that this is an existing law and that city and county treasurers now have the authority to close at lunch time. Senator Farrell was not satisfied and Chairman Senator Hammond requested that a page go and find Greg Petesch, Legislative Researcher, to explain the meaning or reasoning of third class cities except counties. Mr. Hansen stated that it clearly states in the existing law to allow city and county treasurers to close their offices from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.. He stated that there were three sections that were being worked on in the bill, the first section is new language and the language that is being talked about is in section 3 that includes city and county offices. Mr. Greg Petesch arrived to explain why "except counties" was struck. Mr. Petesch stated that "county" had been inserted when the legislative council had renumbered the bill, and stated that there was no substantive change, it was a format change only.

Closing by Sponsor: Senator J.D. Lynch closed.

DISPOSITION OF SENATE BILL 17

Motion: Senator Blaylock moved SB 17 to be concurred in.

Discussion: None

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: None

Recommendation and Vote: The question was called and a voice vote was taken. The motion CARRIED unanimously to BE CONCURRED IN.

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 41

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Representative Mercer, House District 50, stated that he is the chief sponsor of HB 41, a part of the Governor's package dealing with school funding. Representative Mercer stated that the Governor's package is essentially a separate bill that brings the schedule up to 0 and 0 and then this bill calls for a 2 percent increase in the schedule. He stated that the Governor desires an increase if the money is available for 1989/90 biennium. He stated that the Governor's analysis of the budget is if everything is put together properly to fund the 2 percent increase and in addition to that, it is the Governor's desire to solve the equalization problem and that this bill could go along with the rest of the bills, and should not be independent, but a part of the entire package. Representative Mercer stated that Mr. Dave Darby is present to explain why the Governor feels that the 2 percent is justified under the budget.

Testifying Proponents and Who They Represent:

Dave Darby, Director, Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning

Proponent Testimony:

Mr. Darby distributed a handout on the current level funding as opposed to the 2 percent bill. (See EXHIBIT 3). Mr. Darby stated that HB 41 is a companion to HB 42, which is the Governor's proposed funding of the foundation schedules at current level and this is also a companion to the Governor's personal property tax relief program. Mr. Darby stated that one way to look at current funding, even though action has been taken on Representative Schye's bill, HB 6 regarding the 4 percent for the Foundation Program. (See EXHIBIT 5). He stated that the total funds available from the education pots of money to fund current level would be about $38 million over the biennium. The current cost of funding those schedules above what is available is approximately $38 million. Mr. Darby stated that the bottom line is, if all the pots of money are used that are in the trust and in the foundation for current level, there would be about enough money to fund those programs through the biennium. Mr. Darby suggested that the contacts from which the dollars are evaluated, the foundation and trust monies will pay for current level and any increase in school funding for the school years 1990/91 will come from the trust flow as recommended by the Governor or they will come from an additional general fund reserve or some other revenue

ROLL CALL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

50th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1989 Date 6/22

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SENATOR ANDERSON	✓		
SENATOR BROWN	✓		
SENATOR BLAYLOCK	✓		
SENATOR FARRELL	✓		
SENATOR REGAN	✓		
SENATOR NATHE	✓		
SENATOR PINSONEAULT	✓		
SENATOR MAZUREK	✓		
SENATOR HAMMOND	✓		

Each day attach to minutes.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

June 23, 1989

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Education and Cultural Resources, having had under consideration SB 17 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that SB 17 do pass.

DO PASS

Signed: _____

H. W. Hammond, Chairman

sen\017.623

6-23-89 9:45

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. #1
DATE 6/22/89
BILL NO. SB 17

TAXABLE VALUES OF CITIES AND TOWNS

	1987	1988
Alberton	$ 169,294	$ 164,251
Anaconda	4,396,558	4,326,286
Bainville	211,171	176,781
Baker	1,966,963	1,728,228
Bear Creek	35,979	52,653
Belgrade	2,805,895	2,741,436
Belt	329,524	359,230
Big Sandy	671,851	676,282
Big Timber	1,741,664	1,742,187
Billings	130,424,574	123,083,321
Boulder	672,833	662,566
Bozeman	23,712,379	23,605,800
Bridger	627,581	596,645
Broadus	715,419	620,440
Broadview	157,122	141,977
Brockton	84,162	72,765
Browning	367,214	419,178
Butte	0	0
Cascade	505,486	492,954
Chester	686,215	821,631
Chinook	1,308,640	1,258,462
Choteau	1,681,672	1,505,039
Circle	918,475	769,122
Clyde Park	207,949	204,991
Columbia Falls	3,339,147	3,715,617
Columbus	1,753,412	1,862,623
Conrad	2,819,407	2,505,765
Culbertson	710,543	617,730
Cut Bank	3,526,890	3,434,164
Darby	493,861	481,659
Deer Lodge	2,547,304	2,605,088
Denton	279,900	271,706
Dillon	3,437,910	3,398,511
Dodson	106,223	89,671
Drummond	291,757	281,786
Dutton	309,161	307,034
East Helena	3,475,494	3,288,468
Ekalaka	307,519	263,378
Ennis	924,231	963,958
Eureka	841,197	821,185
Fairfield	630,466	629,217
Fairview	749,881	669,782
Flaxville	93,328	80,417
Forsyth	2,415,426	2,091,276
Fort Benton	1,469,585	1,446,141
Fort Peck	92,274	140,343
Froid	219,263	194,611
Fromberg	331,230	306,605
Geraldine	273,575	284,360
Glasgow	3,984,250	3,545,623
Glendive	7,411,992	6,640,999
Grass Range	68,016	71,343
Great Falls	54,497,969	53,307,790
Hamilton	3,831,158	3,863,271
Hardin	3,188,134	2,765,970
Harlem	684,760	659,647
Harlowton	765,086	761,634
Havre	9,413,237	9,154,014
Helena	34,544,320	35,035,491
Hingham	200,852	200,781
Hobson	184,961	120,983
Hot Springs	299,753	274,579
Hysham	262,105	240,288
Ismay	33,498	27,802
Joliet	482,930	437,420
Jordan	345,095	301,935
Judith Gap	98,409	94,837
Kalispell	17,394,331	17,867,419
Kevin	92,949	89,184
Laurel	5,940,473	5,430,218
Lavina	126,894	136,576
Lewistown	4,959,899	4,872,051
Libby	3,219,984	3,066,899
Lima	175,395	162,767
Livingston	7,917,460	7,606,284
Lodge Grass	191,574	163,819
Malta	2,526,832	2,208,165
Manhattan	910,803	879,433
Medicine Lake	262,760	224,973
Melstone	146,507	111,043
Miles City	8,239,133	7,110,391
Missoula	47,170,823	45,980,257
Moore	204,420	189,469
Nashua	306,987	252,061
Neihart	188,151	142,617
Opheim	143,872	118,797
Outlook	84,925	74,497
Phillipsburg	599,189	588,628
Pinesdale	140,368	133,403
Plains	869,274	921,503
Plentywood	2,440,182	2,101,265
Plevna	99,667	86,837
Polson	3,307,304	3,370,014
Poplar	602,593	543,721
Red Lodge	2,540,722	2,383,079
Rexford	59,732	57,261
Richey	248,260	217,943
Ronan	1,354,930	1,363,588
Roundup	1,686,622	1,543,212
Ryegate	200,428	194,653
Saco	189,580	166,169
Scobey	1,233,663	1,070,439
Shelby	2,581,955	2,566,992
Sheridan	496,907	371,689
Sidney	5,943,801	5,071,532
Stanford	400,168	331,519
Stevensville	1,106,252	1,112,959
St. Ignatius	328,071	325,873
Sunburst	301,903	284,701
Superior	836,511	788,574
Terry	648,097	548,050
Thompson Falls	1,101,048	1,029,412
Three Forks	1,008,408	961,385
Townsend	1,455,818	1,414,128
Troy	731,461	670,878
Twin Bridges	641,415	639,397
Valier	531,390	532,221
Virginia City	210,210	213,378
Walkerville	219,258	229,270
Westby	135,441	136,436
West Yellowstone	1,725,120	1,748,398
Whitefish	5,936,120	6,130,398
Whitehall	846,692	824,889
White Sulphur Springs	807,973	773,185
Wibaux	529,844	463,468
Winifred	89,203	88,211
Winnett	97,333	94,229
Wolf Point	2,238,141	1,973,638
Total	$ 472,342,927	$ 455,231,172

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
51st LEGISLATURE - 1st SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: By Chairman Darko, on June 27, 1989, at 7:35 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: All with the exception of:

Members Excused: Representative Jan Brown, Representative Good

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lee Heiman, Legislative Council

Announcements/Discussion: None

HEARING ON SENATE BILL 17

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator J.D. Lynch, District 34, stated that this bill is a result of a recent Attorney General's opinion requiring local governments to remain open forty-five hours a week. This bill would change the requirement for Class III cities and towns to remain open for as long as required to conduct the necessary business. Historically, these cities and towns have not remained open but the ruling now requires them to do so.

Testifying Proponents and Who They Represent:

Alec Hansen, Montana League of Cities and Towns
Rep. Norm Wallin, District 78
Rep. Gary Spaeth, District 84

Proponent Testimony:

Alec Hansen testified that there are many cities and towns across the state that do not have enough business to conduct to justify a 45 hour work week. The cost would also be quite exorbitant. The law was enacted in 1895. Cities and towns assumed that hours could be set by ordinances but the

Attorney General's opinion is contrary. This bill simply allows third class cities and towns to set their own operating hours by ordinance or resolution. A survey has shown that 98 small cities and towns would be affected seriously if this law were enforced. Exhibit 1.

Rep. Wallin, District 78, stood in support of SB 17. The Mayor of Bozeman has written to him asking that the bill be passed.

Rep. Spaeth, District 84, stated that he represents 4 of the 98 towns that will be affected by this bill and is also the city attorney for those towns. Three of those towns would have to increase their budgets dramatically. The town of Bear Creek with a population os 38 has a total budget of less than $10,000, mainly for the sewer and water system with $1200 allocated for the operation of the town. Without this bill the cost of operating would be phenomenal.

Testifying Opponents and Who They Represent:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Questions From Committee Members: Rep. Brooke asked Mr. Hansen what precipitated the Attorney General's opinion. Mr. Hansen responded that the City of Belgrade, a third class city, was considering staying open during the lunch hour and the possibility of flex-time (10 hours, 4 days a week). The City Attorney decided to check with the Attorney General's office to see if such an arrangement would be legal. That request resulted in the Attorney General's opinion.

Rep. Brooke asked if it had anything to do with the recent problem in Missoula of the municipal court meeting on Sunday. Mr. Hansen responded that Sunday is a legal holiday so there should be no court on Sundays.

Rep. Dave Brown asked Mr. Hansen what would prevent large cities from closing their offices in the name of cost savings and thus,preventing public access to those offices. Mr. Hansen responded that the bill, as written, only applies to third class cities and not to larger cities and towns.

Closing by Sponsor: Sen. Lynch closed. Rep. Harrington will carry the bill on the House Floor.

DISPOSITION OF SENATE BILL 17

Motion: Rep. Dave Brown moved that Senate Bill 17 BE CONCURRED IN. Rep. Wyatt seconded.

Discussion: None

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: None

Recommendation and Vote: Senate Bill 17 will be recommended BE CONCURRED IN by a unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 7:55 a.m.

REP. PAULA DARKO, Chairman

PD/td

110627A.min

DAILY ROLL CALL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

DATE 6-27-89

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
BROOKE, VIVIAN	X		
BROWN, DAVE	X		
BROWN, JAN			X
DARKO, PAULA	X		
GOOD, SUSAN			X
GOULD, BUDD	X		
GUTHRIE, BERT	X		
HANSEN, STELLA JEAN	X		
HOFFMAN, ROBERT	X		
JOHNSON, JOHN	X		
McDONOUGH, MARY	X		
NELSON, THOMAS	X		
REHBERG, DENNIS	X		
STICKNEY, JESSICA	X		
WALLIN, NORM	X		
WYATT, DIANA	X		

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STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

"An Act to Allow the Governing Body
of a Third-Class City or Town
to Establish Hours for Municipal Offices"

June 27, 1989

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Local Government report that SENATE BILL 17 (third reading copy -- blue) be concurred in .

Signed: _____
Paula Darko, Chairman

[Rep. HARRINGTON will carry this bill on the floor]

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 6/27/89
SB 17

SURVEY RE HOURS OPEN
June 16, 1989

First Class Cities

City/Town	Hours and days open	Impacts of AG Opinion
Anaconda/Deer Lodge	8-5, Monday-Friday, except City-County Treasurer, 9-5	No immediate impact on most offices; would require rescheduling of employees to open Treasurer's window at 8 a.m.
Billings	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Bozeman	8-5, Monday-Friday, except for certain offices closed 12-1	No immediate impact for most offices; some would require rescheduling of employees to remain open during lunch hour
Butte/Silver Bow	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Great Falls	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Havre	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Helena	8-5, Monday-Friday, except for some offices closed 12-1	No immediate impact on some offices; some would require rescheduling of employees to remain open during lunch hour
Kalispell	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Missoula	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts

EXHIBIT # 1
6/27/89 SB 17

SURVEY RE HOURS OPEN
June 16, 1989

Second Class Cities

City/Town	Hours and days open	Impacts of AG Opinion
Glendive	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Stagger employees' lunch hours to remain open from 12 to 1
Lewistown	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Livingston	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Miles City	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts

EXHIBIT # 1
6/27/89 SB 17

SURVEY RE HOURS OPEN
June 16, 1989

Third Class Cities

City/Town	Hours and days open	Impacts of AG Opinion
Baker	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Belgrade	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Big Timber	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Chinook	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Stagger employees' lunch hours to keep office open during lunch hour
Choteau	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Stagger employees' lunch hours to keep office open during lunch hour
Columbia Falls	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Conrad	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Cut Bank	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Deer Lodge	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Dillon	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
East Helena	9-5, Monday-Friday	Change employees' hours to open office an hour earlier
Fairview	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Would require hiring part-time help to cover lunch hour, which would involve more than one hour per day. Don't know where funding would come from; things now that cannot be funded because of I-105.
Forsyth	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Will require hiring part-time person. With general fund and utilities, reserves are low; hard to say if possible to fund position
Fort Benton	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Reschedule employees' hours to remain open or hire part-time help; rebudget to cover costs.
Glasgow	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Reschedule employees' hours to remain open during lunch hour
Hamilton	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Hardin	8-12, 1-5, Monday-Friday	Stagger employees' hours to cover lunch hour
Harlem	8-4, Monday-Friday	Only one employee; would have to pay overtime to keep office open one additional hour each day

EXHIBIT # 1
6/27/89 SB 17

SURVEY RE HOURS OPEN
June 16, 1989

Third Class Cities

City/Town	Hours and days open	Impacts of AG Opinion
Harlowton	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Would require part-time help to cover lunch hours and when out of town; average $100/month. Don't know how would cover those additional costs.
Laurel	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Libby	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Malta	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Plentywood	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Would require hiring extra help at a cost of $4.50/ hour for 10 hours per week; pay from General Fund
Polson	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Poplar	9-5, Monday-Friday	Change scheduling to cover hours
Red Lodge	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Stagger lunch hours to keep office open during noon hour
Ronan	8:30-4:30, Monday-Friday, sometimes closed during lunch	Part-time help works 92 hours per month. Would require rescheduling of help; and would probably result in cutting other expenses
Roundup	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Stagger lunch hours, or hire part-time employee. Could not fund any additional personnel.
Scobey	8-11, 12:30-5 Monday-Friday	Change employees' hours to cover the additional time open
Shelby	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Sidney	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Three Forks	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Change in scheduling so that part-time employee covers lunch hour
Townsend	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Troy	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Whitefish	8-5, Monday-Friday except on occasion	No immediate impacts
White Sulphur Springs	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Wolf Point	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts

EXHIBIT # 1
6/27/89 SB 17

SURVEY RE HOURS OPEN
June 16, 1989

Towns

City/Town	Hours and days open	Impacts of AG Opinion
Alberton	TRIED TO CALL NUMEROUS TIMES. NO ANSWER.	
Bainville	PHONE DISCONNECTED.	
Bearcreek	Not open at all--office in home	Open first Saturday of month to collect water and sewer revenue. To meet this would require hiring of full-time employee at $10,000. Would probably have to disincorporate.
Belt	9-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Have two part-time clerks. Would require additional two hours pay each day. Would completely deplete the reserves to cover expenditures from July to November.
Big Sandy	No office hours	Works out of home part-time--80 hours/month. Would cost more than twice current costs to keep office open.
Boulder	8-12, 12:30-4:30 Monday-Friday	Hire half-time person or pay overtime to single employee. Could probably cover costs through rebudgeting.
Bridger	9-3:30 Monday-Friday 1st thru 10th; 3 afternoons/week for remainder of month	Extend hours at $250/month. Could not pay for additional costs.
Broadus	8-12; 1-5 Monday-Friday	Additional hours = $80/week at least. Probably fund with utility systems and raise rates--making public not happy.
Broadview	Office in home.	Goes to town hall when called. Cost $8,000 to $10,000. Don't have money--maxed at mills.
Brockton	10-5, Monday-Thursday	Not enough work for full-time; not necessary. Do not have money to keep the office open 5 days a week.
Browning	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Stagger hours to comply. Cannot afford to budget for overtime.
Cascade	9-5, Tuesday & Thursday	Would require full-time employee @ $7,000 additional cost. Would cause rebudgeting.

SURVEY RE HOURS OPEN
June 16, 1989

Towns

City/Town	Hours and days open	Impacts of AG Opinion
Chester	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Hire part-time employee to cover vacations/sick leave. Times when office is currently closed and answering machine is on. Cannot afford to pay more wages.
Circle	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Hire part-time help. Not sure how to cover costs. Reserves not adequate for present responsibilities.
Clyde Park	8:30-12, 1-3:30 Monday & Tuesday	Would be boring with nothing to do. Don't know how would pay additional costs.
Columbus	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Add part-time person @ $2,000/year. Don't know how would fund--would require cutting something else.
Culbertson	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday except when Clerk is gone	Would require hiring additional help @ $4.50/hour. Monies would be taken from General Fund to cover additional costs.
Darby	10-2, Monday-Friday	Require full-time plus part-time employee at cost of at least $7,000. With present tax freeze, budget is stretched to limit; utilities are unable pay any additional costs. Workload does not deem the added hours.
Denton	9-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Cost $125/month. Don't know how to fund at this time.
Dodson	No set hours	No office. Works part-time, often on weekends.
Drummond	TRIED TO CALL NUMEROUS TIMES. NO ANSWER.	
Dutton	8-1, Monday-Thursday	Works 115 hours/month presently. Would cost additional $10,000. Maxed out on I-105, and utilities are at limit for debt retirement. Must pay fixed costs, i.e., MPC. Have been cutting services regularly to meet existing costs. Would require State funding to support additional hours.
Ekalaka	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Extend utility clerk and secretary hours at cost of $100/month. General Fund cannot stand any additional expenditures, therefore utility fund must absorb.

SURVEY RE HOURS OPEN
June 16, 1989

Towns

City/Town	Hours and days open	Impacts of AG Opinion
Ennis	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday, except during banking, trips to Post Office, or other items that take clerk from office	This is a one-man office, with no one to cover during those times when she is gone for various reasons. When she is on vacation or at school, the office is closed until her return. A half-time person would be required to address the AG opinion, at an approximate annual cost of $10,000. The Town has no way to fund the additional costs, since the mill levy is maxed under I-105; and the utilities are bearing all of the costs they can absorb. The only way to cover the costs would be through cuts in services.
Eureka	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impact
Fairfield	1-5, Monday-Friday	Actual works 8-5, but this would require hiring half-time person to answer phone and counter at $6,000/year. Also, office is one large area, so partitions would be necessary for privacy. Cannot exceed 65 mills in General Fund. Hiring additional personnel would cause decrease in services in other areas. Opinion didn't go over well in community. Suggests should be regulations for being open at specific times; however, local governments should be allowed to set own hours.
Flaxville	No set hours	No response.
Fort Peck	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Change scheduling; pay overtime or hire additional part-time help. Funding source is unknown.
Froid	No set hours	No town hall. Bank collects utility bills. Has office in her home. Works full-time as teacher. Would not have work to do most of the time if open 8-5. Valuation has dropped, as well as population To meet this would put the town out of business.
Fromberg	9-4, Monday-Thursday	Increase hours or add part-time person. Don't know how would fund.
Geraldine	TRIED TO CALL NUMEROUS TIMES. NO ANSWER.	
Grass Range	No set hours	Works as needed. Would require hiring full-time person at $12,000/year. Couldn't pay for it.
Hingham	No specific hours	Office open about 10 hours/month; remainder of work done at clerk's home. She works approximately total of 30 hours/month. Town office is in another business establishment (individual is on Council).

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Towns

City/Town	Hours and days open	Impacts of AG Opinion
Hobson	No set hours and no city hall	Business is done in home. Would require full-time employee at $10,000/year. Couldn't pay for it.
Hot Springs	8-4, Monday-Wednesday 8-12 on 3 Thursdays, others 8-4, 8-3, Friday	Work load not enough to keep open 40 hours/week. Additional cost $3,500/year (12.73 mills). No idea where additional money would come from as there are no new revenue sources.
Hysham	8-12, Monday-Friday	Would break town. Too much cost involved.
Ismay	TRIED TO CALL NUMEROUS TIMES. NO ANSWER.	
Joliet	9-4, Monday 9-12, Tuesday 9-4, Wednesday 9-12, Thursday	Would require rearranging hours and paying for additional hours. Has no idea how would fund.
Jordan	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Contract with local real estate agent to use their office and contract with agent to do city business.
Judith Gap	PHONE DISCONNECTED.	
Kevin	9-12, 12:30-4:30 Monday-Friday	Would require pay for additional 2 hours/day at cost of $75/week. No funding to cover costs.
Lavina	No set hours	Add person at $6,000/year. Couldn't pay for it.
Lima	9-4, Thursday	Need more money. Don't know how would comply, except would be through some type of taxation.
Lodge Grass	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday Close early when have council meeting	Hire part-time person at $2,000/year. Couldn't pay for it.
Manhattan	9-12, Monday-Thursday	Not enough work to keep the office open any longer hours.
Medicine Lake	9-12, 12:30-4 Monday-Friday	Add extra help at $450/month. Pay from the General Fund.
Melstone	No set hours, but open as needed	Change from part-time to full-time at cost of $6,000/year. Couldn't pay for it.
Moore	10-12, Monday-Friday sometimes 2 hours in afternoon	Expense for full-time employee. Not profitable--not enough work

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Nashua	9-12, 1-5, Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Would need to be funded from the General Fund.
Neihart	No set hours	Does books at store. Have one room in the school which they use as an office. Would require paying heat bill, etc., plus office help. No idea how to pay expenses.
Opheim	No set hours	Financially impossible to comply.
Outlook	TRIED TO CALL NUMEROUS TIMES. NO ANSWER.	
Philipsburg	9-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Would add about one-quarter more expenses. Raising funds would not be possible.
Pinesdale	No set hours	Works out of home. Not economical to be open 8-5; and don't know how would fund it.
Plains	9-5, Monday-Friday	Works 45 hours/week with no lunch break when part-time assistant is not there. Will need to fund additional costs by cutting costs somewhere else.
Plevna	No set hours	Works from own home.
Rexford	8-12, Monday	Not enough work to stay open. Not able to pay for any more hours.
Richey	8-12, Monday-Friday	Only have clerk and maintenance person. Would cost more than could afford.
Ryegate	8-5, Monday-Wednesday	Would have to hire full-time person. No idea how to pay additional costs. Would be strain on budget w/money coming from Water Fund, which is short already.
Saco	8-12, 1-5 w/coffee breaks 10-10:20 and 3-3:15	Hire part-time help at $4.50/hour. Would be funded from General Fund and utilities.
St. Ignatius	12-4 Monday-Friday from 25th to 8th of month	Average being open 40 hours/month. Also, city court 2 evenings/month.
Sheridan	1-5, Monday-Friday from 1st thru 15th	Need more money--through raising property taxes and utilities.

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Towns

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Stanford	1 hour on Mondays	Would require full-time employee. Not enough work for full-time person. Town cannot afford additional wages--no funds available.
Stevensville	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Would require hiring part-time employee to cover lunch hour. Would also eliminate possibility of closure for a day upon Council approval.
Sunburst	8-4, Monday-Friday	Would require overtime pay.
Superior	8-12, 1-5 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	Would require cuts in service and personnel. Additional expense would be $6,500/year. Maxed out on I-105 (1 mill = $788.574). Have one utility carrying maximum costs. City rents from County--building closed one day each week). Property tax freeze and declining non-property tax revenues make these additional costs a burden to town.
Terry	9-12, 1-4 Monday-Friday	Don't have money for full-time employee. Don't know how could cover additional costs.
Thompson Falls	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts
Twin Bridges	10-4, Tuesday-Thursday	Disastrous--cannot afford. Would cost at least twice current expenses. Have no way of raising funds because of maximum levy and having used 12% max on utilities.
Valier	TRIED TO CALL NUMEROUS TIMES. NO ANSWER.	
Virginia City	9-12, Monday-Friday	No idea how would fund additional hours, except maybe through federal funding.
Walkerville	PHONE DISCONNECTED.	
Westby	9-12, 1-5 Monday-Thursday Close office as necessary when gone	Would require drastic changes, including hiring additional help at $4.50/hour. Monies would be from General Fund.
West Yellowstone	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts; conscious decision recently made to Council to keep office open during lunch hours
Whitehall	8-5, Monday-Friday	No immediate impacts

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Wibaux	8-12, 1-5 Monday-Friday	Hire someone for lunch hour--at least $1,728/year. Considering restrictions of I-105, would be very difficult for both utilities and General Fund--neither have adequate reserves
Winifred	TRIED TO CALL NUMEROUS TIMES. NO ANSWER.	
Winnett	9-3 daily on an average	Add another half-time person at $6,100/year. Would require an additional 6 mills; however, the freeze is still on.